

Primary Education (Belfast) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

Clause.

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2. Education committee.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

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4. Religious instruction.
5. Facilities for religious instruction in school-house.
6. Nursery schools.
7. Training of teachers.
8. Acquisition of land.
9. Transfer of public elementary school.
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SCHEDULES.

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B I L L

TO

Make better provision for Primary Education in the City of Belfast. A.D. 1919.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

1. For the purposes of the education provided under this Act the council of the county borough of Belfast shall, on and after the day of nineteen hundred and nineteen, be the local education authority for the area of the administrative county borough of Belfast (in this Act called "the education authority"), and shall have power to raise money by rate or loan for the purposes of the Act and the control of the expenditure thereof. Education authority.

2.—(1) It shall be the duty of the education authority to constitute and appoint a committee (in this Act called "the Education Committee") to superintend and carry on the general administration of educational work in the county. Education committee.

Such Committee shall consist of—

- (a) one representative of each municipal ward in the city of Belfast, to be selected annually by the council of the corporation of Belfast at the statutory meeting of the council from the members thereof, and of an additional number of persons, not exceeding two-fifths of the whole, who need not be members of the council; and

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- (b) a representative or representatives of the parents of the children attending the schools under the control of the education authority; and
- (c) a representative or representatives of the teachers engaged in the schools under the control of the education authority; and also
- (d) a representative or representatives of persons concerned in the management of schools in the county at the date of the passing of this Act, due regard being had to the religious belief of the parents of the children attending such schools.

(2) The Education Committee shall, subject to any regulations and restrictions made by the education authority, have all the powers and duties of that authority in regard to—

- (a) the general management and supervision of the schools, including attendance thereat;
- (b) the appointment of managers or sub-committees of management for schools or groups of schools the members of which may or may not be members of the Education Committee, provided that in making such appointments or constituting such sub-committees due regard shall be had to the religious or denominational beliefs of the parents of the children in attendance at schools in the district served by such schools or groups of schools; and
- (c) the appointment, transfer, remuneration and dismissal of teachers in schools under the control of the education authority, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commissioners:

Provided further that the education authority shall in every case themselves retain, exercise and perform all their powers and duties in regard to—

- (a) the raising of money by rate or loan and the general control of expenditure;
- (b) the acquisition or holding of land.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY.

3.—(1) The education authority may appoint all necessary officers to hold office during the pleasure of the authority, and may assign them such salaries or remuneration (if any) as they

Appoint-
ment of
officers,
maintenance

think fit, and may from time to time remove any of such officers. A.D. 1919.

(2) The education authority may take over the control and management of any public elementary school in the education area by agreement with the managers or persons in control thereof, and may repair, alter, enlarge, equip and maintain any school so taken over, and may control the work carried on therein, subject to the rules and regulations of the Commissioners. of schools, and provision of books and other educational equipment.

(3) As an ancillary means of promoting education, the education authority may make such provision of books and other educational equipment, by purchase or otherwise, as they may think desirable, and make the same available to the children and young persons attending schools or continuation classes in the county.

For the purposes of this subsection, the education authority may enter into arrangements with public libraries, and all expenses incurred by the education authority for those purposes shall be chargeable to the County Education Fund.

(4) The education authority may provide, equip and maintain playgrounds, playrooms, gymnasia and other facilities for physical education, and may permit them to be used either in connexion with and as part of a school or independently thereof, as they see fit.

4. Whereas it has been the custom in the public elementary schools in the county borough of Belfast to give instruction in religion to children whose parents did not object to the instruction so given, but with liberty to parents, without forfeiting any of the other advantages of the schools, to elect that their children should not receive such instruction. Be it enacted that the education authority shall be at liberty to continue the said custom, subject to the provisions of the rules and regulations issued by the Commissioners, and for this purpose it shall be the duty of the education authority to afford facilities for the provision of religious instruction in all schools controlled by them, and the times stated pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Commissioners as the times during which religious instruction is given in the school shall, for all children who have reached the third standard prescribed by the said rules and regulations for the time being, be not less than a clear half-hour on every school day or an equivalent period in each week, and for children

Religious instruction.

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who have not reached such standard such times as to the education authority, subject to appeal to the Commissioners, may appear reasonable, and the education authority shall, within the time during which such children are required to attend school, make available for the purpose of enabling any children whose parents desire them to receive such instruction any accommodation in the schoolhouse which can reasonably be made available for that purpose.

Facilities
for religious
instruction
in school-
house.

5. Where pursuant to this Act any accommodation in the schoolhouse of any school is required to be made available for 10 a child or children to receive religious instruction not provided by the education authority:—

- (1) In considering and determining whether, subject to any rights reserved to the managers, trustees or owners of the schoolhouse pursuant to section nine 15 hereof, such accommodation can reasonably be made available due regard shall be had by the education authority and by the Commissioners on the hearing of any question referred to them for their determination (a) to the number of children or different 20 groups of children for whom religious instruction is from time to time desired; (b) to the proportion of the number of those children in each case to the total number of children in attendance at the school; (c) to the number of persons available to give the 25 different forms of teaching so desired to those children or groups of children respectively; and (d) to the manner in which the classrooms of the schoolhouse may be used most conveniently and advantageously by those several teachers: 30
- (2) The part or parts of the schoolhouse in which such instruction is given shall be properly lighted, warmed and cleaned at the cost of the authority:
- (3) The instruction may be given by any association approved for the purpose by the education authority 35 or the Commissioners, or may be given by any person approved by the parent or by any teacher employed in the school. It shall not be made a condition of the appointment or continuation in office of any teacher that he or she shall give religious instruc- 40 tion, but any teacher may, subject to the permission

of the education authority, give religious instruction in any school in which he or she is employed; A.D. 1919.

The permission of the education authority shall not be withheld under this provision as respects a teacher unless they are of opinion that the giving of religious instruction by such teacher will be detrimental to the education given in the school:

- (4) If any question arises in connexion with the obligation of the education authority to give effect to the provisions of this section, that question shall be referred to and determined by the Commissioners.

6. It shall be lawful for the education authority to make arrangements for— *Nursery schools.*

- (a) supplying or aiding the supply of nursery schools for children over two and under five years of age (or such later age as may be approved by the Commissioners) whose attendance at such a school is necessary or desirable for their healthy physical and mental development; and

- (b) attending to the health, nourishment and physical welfare of children attending nursery schools.

7. The education authority may make provision for the training of teachers within the education area, and may contribute in each year towards the maintenance of any training college or colleges for teachers in the county of Belfast. *Training of teachers.*

8.—(1) The education authority may from time to time, for the purposes of any of their powers and duties under this Act, acquire, purchase or take on lease any land or schoolhouse, or building suitable for a schoolhouse, and may build, equip and maintain new schools, and may make applications to the Commissioners for grants out of moneys provided by Parliament to be devoted to these purposes or any of them. Any such new schools may be vested in and shall be controlled by the education authority. *Acquisition of land.*

(2) For the purpose of the acquisition of land by the education authority under this Act, the Lands Clauses Acts shall be incorporated with this Act, except the provisions of the Lands Clauses Acts relating to the purchase and taking of land otherwise than by agreement.

A.D. 1919.

(3) The education authority may be authorised to purchase land compulsorily by means of an order submitted to and confirmed by the Commissioners in accordance with the provisions contained in the Housing of the Working Classes (Ireland) Acts, 1890 to 1908, and those provisions shall have effect for the purpose, with the substitution of the Commissioners for the Local Government Board for Ireland and of the education authority for the local authority, but no such order shall be made for the compulsory acquisition of the premises of any school existing at the passing of this Act. 10

Transfer of
public
elementary
school.

9.—(1) It shall be lawful for the education authority at any time to accept from any person or persons vested with the title of any school within the county borough of Belfast, and for such person or persons, notwithstanding any provision contained in any instrument regulating the trusts or management of their school, to make a transfer of such school, together with the site thereof, and any land or buildings and furniture held and used in connexion therewith, to the education authority upon such terms as may be agreed on. 15

(2) Any grant payable to a transferred school which has accrued in respect of a period before the date of transfer shall be paid by the Commissioners to the education authority, and shall be applied by the authority in payment of any liabilities on account of the school then outstanding, and, so far as not required for that purpose, towards the maintenance of the school. 25

(3) Any school so transferred shall be held, maintained and managed as a public elementary school by the education authority upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon, and the trustees or persons transferring such school to the education authority shall, as from the date of such transfer, be absolutely freed and discharged from all responsibility in connexion therewith, whether under any deed of trust relating thereto or otherwise: 30

Provided that— 35

(i) the existing staff of teachers shall be taken over by the education authority, and shall from the date of transfer be placed upon the same scale of salaries as teachers of corresponding qualifications appointed to corresponding positions in other schools controlled by the authority, but this provision is not 40

to apply to any teachers who have been employed in such school for less than six months prior to the transfer; A.D. 1919.

- (ii) subject to the provisions of the rules and regulations issued by the Commissioners, the time set apart for religious instruction or observance in any such school shall not be less than that so set apart according to the use and wont of the former management of the school, and the education authority shall appoint as supervisor, without remuneration, of religious instruction for each such school a person approved as regards religious belief and character, and it shall be the duty of the supervisor so appointed to report to the education authority as to the efficiency of the religious instruction given in such school. The supervisor shall have right of entry to the school at all times set apart for religious instruction or observance. The education authority shall give facilities for the holding of religious examinations in every such school.

(4) Any question which may arise^{*} as to the due fulfilment or observance of any provision or requirement of the preceding subsection shall be referred to the Commissioners, whose decision shall be final.

(5) A school established after the passing of this Act to which this section would have applied had the school been in existence at that date may be transferred to the education authority upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed on, and the provisions of this section shall, with the necessary modifications, apply to any such transfer and to any school so transferred.

(6) In any case where the education authority or the Commissioners are satisfied, upon representations made to them on behalf of the parents of children and after such inquiry as the education authority or the Commissioners deem necessary, that a new school is required for the accommodation of children whose parents are resident within the county borough of Belfast, regard being had to the religious belief of such parents, it shall be lawful for the education authority to provide a new school to be held, maintained and managed by them, subject to the conditions prescribed in subsection (3) of this section so far as those

A.D. 1919. conditions are applicable, the time set apart for religious instruction in the new school being not less than that so set apart in schools in the said county which have been transferred under this section.

(7) If at any time after the expiry of ten years from the transfer of a school under this section or from the provision of a new school as aforesaid the education authority are of opinion that the school is no longer required, or that having regard to the religious belief of the parents of the children attending the school the conditions prescribed in subsection (3) of this section ought no longer to apply thereto, the authority may so represent to the Commissioners, and if the Commissioners, after such inquiry as they deem necessary, are of the same opinion and so signify, it shall be lawful for the education authority thereafter to discontinue the school or, as the case may be, to hold, maintain and manage the same in all respects as a public school not subject to those conditions.

(8) The consent of any number of persons having the administration of the trusts on which any school is held to the transference of such school, with the site and house and land (if any) held and used in connexion therewith, to the education authority may be given by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the persons having the administration of such trusts present at a meeting duly summoned for that purpose, and the transference may be effected by an ordinary deed of conveyance by the persons vested with the title registered in the Registry of Deeds Office, Dublin, and no stamp or other duty shall be exigible on such deed, and the persons whose consent is by this Act required need not be parties to such deed, and the title of the education authority shall not be subject to challenge on the ground that the requisite consents were not duly given, unless such challenge shall be judicially made within six months after the registration of the deed of conveyance.

Rate add to schools.

10.—(1) It shall be the duty of the education authority to consider the needs of any public elementary school within the education area not controlled by the authority which complies with the requirements of the Commissioners, and if the managers or body controlling such school (a) satisfy the authority that the school is fit in every respect for its purpose, and provides adequate and proper structural accommodation, and is required in the district in which it is situated; (b) submit estimates of

any proposed expenditure on the maintenance, repair, heating, cleansing and equipment of such school which are approved by the education authority showing the amount asked for from the education authority; (c) satisfy the education authority that the school will be efficiently maintained for some stated period not less than eighteen months as a public elementary school free of any charge to the education authority over and above the sum so asked for, it shall be the duty of the education authority, if they have approved the said estimates, to contribute the sum asked for therein. If any dispute shall arise as to the liability of the education authority to make a contribution to any school under this subsection, or as to the amount thereof, it shall be determined by the Commissioners.

(2) Where any sum has been paid by the education authority pursuant to the preceding subsection in respect of any school, the managers of or body controlling such school—

(a) shall continue to comply with the requirements of the Commissioners in respect of the teaching given;

(b) shall afford such opportunities for the religious instruction of minorities in the school as are prescribed in sections four and five hereof, or may from time to time be prescribed by the Commissioners in the case of vested schools;

(c) shall not close such school until they have given eighteen months' notice to the education authority of their intention to cease to carry on the school.

(3) All sums contributed by the education authority pursuant to this section in respect of any school to the extent to which the value of the school buildings has been enhanced owing to the expenditure thereof shall be a charge upon the school buildings, and the amount by which such value is so enhanced shall, in case the said buildings are sold or put to any other use than a public elementary school, be repaid to the education authority, and the repayment of such amount shall be binding and obligatory on all persons for the time being owning the said buildings as though a covenant for repayment had been inserted in the conveyance of the said buildings to such persons. The amount by which such value is so enhanced shall in case of dispute be determined by the Commissioners.

11.—(1) The expenses of the education authority (including the expenditure incurred by school managers and sub-committees

Expenses of education authority.

A.D. 1919.

in the performance of their duties and approved by the authority) shall be paid out of the education fund of the education authority, and a separate account shall be kept of all receipts of and payments from the said fund.

(2) There shall be carried to the education fund all money 5 received as grants from the Commissioners, or raised by way of loan, or transferred to the education authority under this Act, or otherwise received by the education authority for the purposes of that fund and not by this Act or otherwise specially appropriated, and any deficiency in that fund, whether for satisfying 10 present or future liabilities, shall be raised by the education authority by means of a local rate, which shall be levied on the same basis as and together with the poor rate, but so that the amount levied in respect of education shall be shown separate 15 from the amount levied for the relief of the poor.

(3) The education authority shall have power to borrow money for the purposes of this Act, as for the purposes of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, on the security of the poor rate, provided that where any proposals for the expenditure of money on any school by the authority are made by persons 20 in control of such school and are approved by the Commissioners but are not approved by the Education Committee, the money to meet such expenditure shall not be raised by loan, but shall be provided out of the education fund as soon as the education authority determines that there is in that fund money reasonably 25 sufficient and available for that purpose, having regard to the contemplated expenditure of the authority.

Extension of
school age.

12.—(1) The duty of every parent to provide efficient education for his children shall in the county borough of Belfast continue in respect of each child until that child has attained 30 the age of fourteen years, and exemption from attendance at school shall not be granted to any child who has not attained the age of thirteen years, and the provisions of the Irish Education Act, 1892, which relate to that duty and to such exemption are hereby amended so far as they relate to the 35 county borough of Belfast accordingly; that is to say,—

In sections one and two of the Irish Education Act, 1892, the word "thirteen" shall be substituted for the word "eleven" wherever that word occurs in those sections.

(2) The education authority may frame byelaws relating 40 to school attendance providing for the enforcement of compulsory

attendance up to the age of fourteen years, and prescribing (subject to the approval of the Commissioners) dates of commencing and terminating school attendance, and imposing penalties in respect of any breach of such byelaws.

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5 (3) Nothing in this section shall—

(a) prevent any employer from employing any child who is lawfully employed by him or by any other person before the appointed day; or

10 (b) affect any exemption from attendance at school granted before the appointed day.

13.—(1) The education authority may, after due inquiry and consultation with persons concerned in local crafts and industries and with due regard to local circumstances generally, prepare and carry out a scheme or schemes for the part-time instruction of all young persons within the education area of the authority.

Continued education.

14. The authority may provide for the medical and dental inspection and treatment of children and young persons attending schools within the county, and for this purpose may employ medical officers and nurses and may arrange with voluntary associations for the supply of nurses, and may provide appliances or other requisites and, where necessary for purposes of education, may make provision for meals for children.

Medical and dental inspection and treatment.

GENERAL.

15. The Commissioners, on the application of the education authority, may within twelve months after the passing of this Act from time to time make such orders as appear to them necessary for bringing this Act into full operation, and such order may modify any enactment in this or any other Act, whether general or local, so far as may appear to the Commissioners necessary for the said purpose.

Power to Commissioners to aid in bringing Act into operation.

16.—(1) The Commissioners may, after considering any representations made to them on the subject, approve any scheme or revised scheme or modification of an existing scheme submitted to them by the education authority, and thereupon the scheme or revised or modified scheme shall have effect as if enacted in this Act, and it shall be lawful for the education authority to carry the same into effect as so approved.

Approval and carrying out of schemes.

17.—(1) The Commissioners may hold a public inquiry for the purpose of the exercise of any of their powers or the performance of any of their duties under this Act.

Public inquiries.

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(2) The following provisions shall apply to any public inquiry so held:—

- (a) The Commissioners shall appoint a person or persons to hold the inquiry:
- (b) The person or persons so appointed shall hold a sitting 5 or sittings in some convenient place in the county of Belfast, and thereat shall hear receive and examine any evidence and information offered and hear and inquire into the objections or representations made respecting the subject-matter of the inquiry, with 10 power from time to time to adjourn any sitting:
- (c) Notice shall be published in such manner as the Commissioners direct of every such sitting, except an adjourned sitting, seven days at least before the holding thereof: 15
- (d) The person or persons so appointed shall make a report in writing to the Commissioners setting forth the result of the inquiry and the objections and representations, if any, made thereat, and any opinion or recommendations submitted by him or them to the 20 Commissioners:
- (e) The Commissioners shall furnish a copy of the report to the education authority, and, on payment of such fee as may be fixed by the Commissioners, to any person interested: 25
- (f) The Commissioners may, where it appears to them reasonable that such an order should be made, order the payment of the whole or any part of the costs of the inquiry either by the education authority or by the applicant for the inquiry, and may require 30 the applicant for an inquiry to give security for the costs thereof:
- (g) Any order so made shall certify the amount to be paid by the education authority or the applicant, and any amount so certified shall, without prejudice to 35 the recovery thereof as a debt due to the Crown, be recoverable by the Commissioners summarily as a civil debt from the authority or the applicant as the case may be.

18. A woman shall not be disqualified either by sex or marriage from being a member of the education authority, or any committee thereof, or school management body or sub-committee or school committee, or any other body constituted, elected, nominated or appointed for educational purposes under or in pursuance of this Act.

A.D. 1919.
Eligibility of
women.

19. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpreta-
tion.

(1) The expressions "powers," "duties," and "powers and duties" have the meanings assigned thereto respectively in the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898;

(2) The expression "county" means the county borough of Belfast;

(3) The expression "Commissioners" means the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland;

(4) The expression "public elementary school" means a school aided by the Commissioners where elementary education is the principal part of the education given;

(5) The expression "education area" means the area of the county borough of Belfast;

(6) The expression "transferred school" means a school transferred to the education authority under the section of this Act relating to transfer of schools;

(7) The expression "child" means any child up to the age when its parents cease to be under an obligation to cause him to attend school for the purpose of receiving efficient elementary instruction;

(8) The expression "young person" means a person under eighteen years of age who is no longer a child.

20. The provisions set out in the First and Second Schedules to this Act relating respectively to education committees and school management committees shall have effect as if those provisions were enacted in this Act.

Provisions as
to Education
Committee
and school
management
committees.

21.—(1) This Act shall extend to the county borough of Belfast only.

Extent,
commence-
ment and
citation.

(2) This Act shall, except as otherwise expressly provided, come into operation on the appointed day, and the appointed

A.D. 1919. — day shall be such day as the Commissioners may appoint, and different days may be appointed for different purposes and for different provisions of this Act and for different persons or classes of persons.

(3) This Act may be cited as the Primary Education 3
(Belfast) Act, 1919.

The SCHEDULES referred to in the Bill.

A.D. 1919.

FIRST SCHEDULE.

PROVISIONS AS TO EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

1. The Education Committee shall meet at such times as the conduct
5 of business may require. There shall be at least one general meeting
of the Education Committee in each month. Provided that it shall not
be necessary to hold more than one such meeting between the end of
June and the beginning of October.
2. The Education Committee shall at the first meeting after its
10 appointment appoint one of their number to be chairman during the
Committee's period of office, and may appoint a vice-chairman, and
should the chairman or vice-chairman be absent from any meeting of
the authority the members present shall appoint one of themselves to
be chairman of the meeting, and should a vacancy occur in the office
15 of chairman during the period of office it shall be filled by a new
appointment. At every meeting the chairman shall have a casting as
well as a deliberative vote.
3. The quorum of the Education Committee shall be one-fourth of
the whole members, but shall in no case be less than three.
4. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Education Committee
20 may draw up byelaws for the conduct of its business, which shall be
submitted to the education authority, and when approved by that
authority shall be binding, and may from time to time appoint bodies
of managers and sub-committees consisting in whole or in part of
25 members of the Committee for the exercise of any of their powers,
and no sub-committee shall unless re-appointed hold office for more
than one year.
5. The proceedings of the Education Committee shall not be invali-
dated by any vacancy among its members or by any defect in the
30 election, appointment or qualification of any members thereof.
6. Minutes of the proceedings of the Education Committee shall
be kept in a book, provided for that purpose, and a minute of those
proceedings, signed at the same or next ensuing meeting by a person
describing himself as or appearing to be chairman of the meeting of
35 the committee at which the minute is signed, shall be received in
evidence without further proof.
7. Until the contrary is proved, the Education Committee shall be
deemed to have been duly constituted and to have power to deal with
any matters referred to in its minutes.

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SECOND SCHEDULE.

PROVISIONS AS TO SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.

1. In this schedule the expression "sub-committee" means a school management sub-committee constituted in pursuance of this Act.
2. With a view to the first constitution of sub-committees, it shall be the duty of the education authority as soon as may be after the appointed day to prepare a scheme or schemes for the constitution of the sub-committees throughout their education area; and the education authority may at any time, if and when so required by the Commissioners, prepare a revised scheme or modification of an existing scheme. 5 10
3. A sub-committee shall be reconstituted after each fresh appointment of the Education Committee, or at such date as the authority may appoint, being not less than one month or more than two months after each appointment, and shall remain in office until the next reconstitution or until the coming into force of a revised or modified scheme, whichever of these events shall first occur. 15
4. A member of a sub-committee may resign on giving to the education authority and the sub-committee one month's notice in writing of his intention so to do.
5. Casual vacancies in the membership of a sub-committee arising from death or resignation, or any other cause, shall be filled up as soon as may be by the education authority or otherwise in accordance with the scheme. 20
6. The education authority may appoint a place and time for the first meeting of a sub-committee after the first constitution or any reconstitution thereof, or after the coming into force of any revised or modified scheme, but, subject to any such appointment and to the provisions of any scheme, the place and time of meetings, the quorum and the proceedings of a sub-committee shall be such as the sub-committee determine. 25 30
7. Each sub-committee shall from time to time elect a chairman, who shall hold office for each period as shall be fixed at the time of his election, and in the case of an equality of votes for two or more persons as chairman one of those persons shall be elected by lot. The chairman shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote. 35
8. Subject to the provisions of any scheme, a sub-committee may appoint a clerk to hold office during the pleasure of the sub-committee, and two or more sub-committees may arrange for the appointment of the same person to act as clerk to both or all of them.

9. The proceedings of a sub-committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among the members or by any defect in the appointment or qualification of any of the members thereof.

10. Minutes of the proceedings of a sub-committee shall be kept in a book provided for the purpose, and a minute of such proceedings, signed at the same or the next ensuing meeting by the chairman or by a person purporting to be the chairman of the meeting of the sub-committee at which the minute is signed, shall be received in evidence without further proof.

11. Until the contrary is proved, a sub-committee shall be deemed to have been duly constituted or re-constituted and to have power to deal with any matter referred to in the minutes.

12. Subject to the provisions of this Act, a sub-committee shall observe such regulations and restrictions as the education authority may from time to time prescribe, including any regulation or restriction relating to finance, and no expenditure by or on behalf of a sub-committee shall become a charge on the education fund unless or except in so far as it has been authorised or sanctioned by the education authority.